

**English:** European Robin  
**Latin:** *Erithacus rubecula*  
**Irish:** Spideog

The robin is probably the most familiar and most easily recognised garden bird. It has a striking red face and breast, with a brown back and wings, and a white belly. It can appear quite plump, especially in cold weather when it fluffs up its feathers. In the garden it can often be seen hopping along the ground and will often sit motionless close to you while you are gardening. The female robin builds her nest in walls, hedges, sheds, trees, ivy and even tin cans, and will also use open-fronted nestboxes. The nest is made from moss, dead leaves and grass. The robin is very territorial. This means that it does not like other robins in its area and will defend it fiercely. You are therefore unlikely to see more than one robin at a time in a small garden. If another robin comes too near it puffs up its red breast and sings out in alarm to warn the trespasser off. When alarmed it makes a "tick" sound, which can sound like an old clock being wound up. At other times it can either sound sad or make a pretty warbling song.

## Fact File

**Plumage Colour:** Red face and breast. Brown back and wings, with white belly.

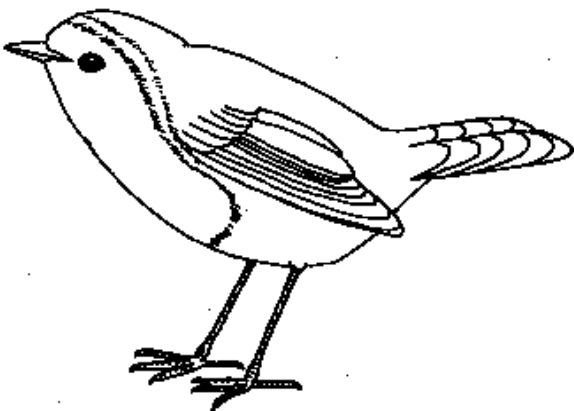
**Height:** 12.5-14 cm

**Diet:** Worms, insects, snails and fruit.

**Habitat:** Gardens, hedges, parks and woodlands.

**No. of eggs:** 3-6

## Colour Me!



SKETCH COURTESY AUBREY MURPHY

# THE ROBIN



Photo courtesy of Robbie Murphy

## Robins, but no relation!

There are other birds known as "robins" but though some have a similar red breast, they are not related to the European Robin. Such birds include the American Robin (which is more closely related to the thrush) and the Australian red robins (more closely related to crows).

**Top right:** American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*).

**Bottom right:** Rose Robin (*Petroica rosea*) from Australia.



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